7th Grade English

Oral Recitation Assignment

*To Kill A Mockingbird*

**Introduction:**

*Reading* a novel is one way to understand a story. The reader can learn about a setting, a group of characters, the problems between characters, and understand how a setting can affect the characters in the story. When you read, you understand what is happening.

*Memorizing* a passage from that novel rises to a different, more advanced level of understanding. First, one must read that passage many times to memorize it. The process of rereading truly helps one grasp the full meaning of that particular portion of the story. But memorizing and then reciting is an even greater task: to speak the words out loud forces a reader to truly empathize with the character. Indeed, to recite a character’s passage well, one must enter into the character’s mind to appreciate his or her motivations, feelings, and actions.

**Assignment:**

**Memorize one paragraph of Atticus’s closing speech on pages 270-275.**

**Specific Areas of Focus:**

* **Memorization**
* **Movement and eye contact**—you should embody Atticus speaking to the jury (pretend you are standing in his shoes when presenting)
* **Facial expressions and hand gestures:** Appropriate levels of each; not overly animated nor overly subdued or blank-faced.
* **Tone and pacing**: Do you work through the ideas presented in the passage in a way that is powerful and impactful, or do you rush through them? Does the audience have the opportunity to fully grasp all of the ideas presented?

**Assignments and Due Dates:**

* **Selection of Paragraph:** Friday, April 8th
* **Understanding of Paragraph (on the back of sheet):** Monday, April 11th
* **Practice time with feedback from peer:** Tuesday, April 14th
* **Recitations:** Thursday, April 15th and Friday, April 16th.
* **Self-Evaluations**: Due the day after your recitation. (You will receive these later, most likely on Monday.)

Name: Date:

1. Write out the paragraph(s) you are going to memorize.
2. What is Atticus saying in this passage? In other words, summarize the major points or arguments he is making in this part of his speech.
3. Why is Atticus making this point? Who is that point directed towards?

IV. Why are you choosing this passage?